On March 25, 2013, President Obama signed a presidential proclamation designating the San Juan Islands National Monument.

The new National Monument comprises approximately 1,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land in the San Juan Islands. The proclamation does not affect any non-BLM lands.

The lands included in the National Monument will remain under the BLM’s management. The agency will continue to work closely with its many federal, state, and community partners to effectively protect the monument’s unique resources and manage it for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

Situated in the northern reaches of Washington State’s Puget Sound, the San Juan Islands encompass a landscape of unmatched contrasts, where forests seem to spring from rock and distant, snow-capped peaks provide the backdrop for sandy beaches.

These islands are home to a trove of cultural resources, including the remains of Native American villages and picturesque historic lighthouses.

The diverse habitats found on these islands provide a refuge for countless species of mammals, birds, and insects, including the island marbled butterfly, which was once thought to be extinct.

There are many ways to experience the spectacular landscape of the San Juan Islands National Monument. The area offers outstanding wildlife viewing, as well as fishing, kayaking, hiking, and camping.